

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Conditions of Bulgarian Lawyers and Magistrates	DATE DISTR.	28 January 1955
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1. Bulgarian magistrates and lawyers feel a real sense of dissatisfaction at the economic conditions in which they are forced to live, because of inadequate compensation. Salaries of magistrates vary between a minimum of 800 leva and a maximum of 1,300 leva per month. Lawyers, whose activity is controlled by the state, have in theory the possibility of receiving salaries considerably higher than those of magistrates, depending on the number of cases which they handle. However, because of the high number of lawyers and the low fees (which are fixed by the Government), few are those who succeed in making 1500 - 2000 leva per month. The average salary of lawyers varies between 500-1000 leva per month. Another reason for the dissatisfaction of lawyers is the fact that they are not permitted to exercise their profession freely, and must abide by the rigid bureaucratic regulations which place them in the category of regular government workers.
2. Magistrates and lawyers are not obliged to be members of the Communist Party. Political merit does not carry much influence in their career, since what really counts are their professional capabilities. However, both magistrates and lawyers, in order to be able to carry out their activities in peace, must show a certain sympathy toward the government (even though this may not actually exist) and respect for the directives which it issues. Informant could give no further information as to the actual political orientation of magistrates and lawyers. Apparently all are in favor of the present government but it is difficult to say how many are those who take this attitude for opportunistic reasons and how many actually because of their political beliefs.

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